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REMARKS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 26, 2005. In view of the amendments and the following discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §112 Claim 5

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite due to insufficient antecedent basis. In response, the Applicants have amended claim 5 to cure the insufficient antecedent basis. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

35 U.S.C. §112 Claim 17

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. In response, the Applicants have cancelled claim 17.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 14-18

Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 14-18 stand rejected as being anticipated by *Komino* (U.S. Patent No. 6,156,151). In response, the Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10. Claims 4, and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Independent claims 1 and 10, as amended, recite limitations not taught or suggested by *Komino*. *Komino* fails to teach, show, or suggest at least one restrictor plate supported within the semiconductor processing chamber by a plurality of support pins, as recited by claims 1 and 10. *Komino* teaches a lower baffle plate 118 which is constituted by part of the central casing part CC defining the processing chamber 101 (column 6, lines 26-27). As is evident from Figures 1 and 2, to which the Examiner refers, the lower baffle plate 118 is supported by and touches both the interior walls of the chamber and the substrate support pedestal. Thus, the lower baffle plate 118 is not supported by a plurality of support pins, as recited in claims 1 and 10, and is not

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configured to be laterally spaced apart from the substrate support pedestal and the interior wall of the processing chamber, as recited in claim 3.

Thus, the Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 10, and claims 3-6, 9, 12, and 14-18 depending therefrom, are patentable over *Komino*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request these rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Claims 7, 8, 13, and 19-22

Claims 7, 8, 13, and 19-22, stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Komino*. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed above, independent claims 1 and 10, as amended, from which claims 7, 8, 13, and 19-22 depend, are patentable over *Komino*. *Komino* does not teach all the claim limitations of claims 1 and 10, and therefore claims dependent on the independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable over *Komino*.

Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 7, 8, 13, and 19-22 are patentable over *Komino*. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request these rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 23-25 have been added. The Applicants submit that the new claims are fully supported by the specification, and are patentable as the references of record do not teach or suggest a processing system having a restrictor plate supported within a semiconductor processing chamber in a laterally space-apart relation relative to a substrate support pedestal and the sidewalls of the processing chamber. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 23-25.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited.


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If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Keith P. TABOADA
Attorney Reg. No. 45,150
(732) 530-9404Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Suite 100
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

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